



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE
U. S. NAVAL FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND DETACHMENT IRAQ
APO AE 09342

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22 Jul 09

Dear Shipmate,

Congratulations on your IA/GSA orders to Iraq! Your tour in Iraq can be one of the most rewarding tours in your Navy career. NAVCENT Forward Iraq's (NFI) mission is to take care of all Sailors from when you arrive to when you head home. To obtain additional information on NFI, please visit our homepage at: http://www.force.s-iraq.centcom.smil.mil/special_staff/NFI/default.aspx.

The Uniform of the Day is the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) or Desert Camouflage Uniform (DCU) which will be issued to you at NMPS. The Navy Physical Training Uniform (PTU) will NOT be issued at NMPS and it is highly recommended you deploy with at least four sets.


Working hours are determined on the unit to which you are assigned. Most units work seven days a week. There is limited space to store and keep your valuables so pack accordingly. Credit and debit cards can be used along with the Eagle Cash Card. The Eagle Cash Card works just like the Navy Cash card which enables you to load funds directly from your bank account. We recommend you get your Eagle Cash card while you are in Kuwait awaiting travel to Iraq since there are no ATMs available in Iraq. Containerized Housing Units (CHUs) are what most Sailors live in. Some Sailors are assigned living quarters in converted buildings.

While you are deployed here, one of the most important things is staying in touch with family and friends. Sailors are able to do this by using one of several wireless internet companies available in Iraq. Prices range from \$55 - \$120 per month depending on which plan you choose. There are also internet cafés on most Forward Operating Bases (FOBS) within walking distance.

MWR hosts many events such as Eight Ball, Ping Pong, Texas Hold'Em, and Halo Tournaments just to name a few. If you are into music, Karaoke, Reggae, R&B, Country Western, and Latin Nights are also popular. MWR also has running events that occur on a regular basis such as the 5K, 10K, 10-milers, half-marathons, and even marathons. Gyms are different everywhere you go but we do receive some of the best workout equipment available.

Service Members are authorized one 15 day R&R leave if projected to serve 270 days boots on ground in theater and who are deployed for a 12 month tour. R&R leave is chargeable against the ordinary leave balance. Remember that R&R leave is a privilege, not an entitlement. The R&R pass program is a four day pass to Camp As-Sayliyah, Qatar and eligibility begins after serving 90 days in theater.

If you still have questions after reading this you can contact NFI for everything Navy. On our website which is listed above, you will find points-of-contact, phone numbers and email addresses or you can email this address for answers to any questions you may have at navcentfwdiraq@iraq.centcom.mil. Again, congratulations on receiving your orders and welcome to Iraq. We look forward to seeing you here soon and hope that you have a rewarding tour. Welcome aboard!



D. K. WOODHOUSE